Express Mail Mailing Label No.: EL653444210US

PATENT Attorney Docket No. EXT-010CN

Particulars of prior application:

Serial No.: 09/177,243

Filing Date: October 22, 1998

Examiner: Joyce Tung of Art Unit 1656

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:

Shuber.

SERIAL NO.:

Not yet assigned.

GROUP NO.:

Not yet assigned.

FILING DATE:

Herewith.

EXAMINER:

Not yet assigned.

TITLE:

Methods for Detecting Contamination in Molecular Diagnostics Using PCR

Box PATENT APPLICATION Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Kindly enter the following preliminary amendment after assigning a filing date but before beginning examination of the patent application identified above and submitted herewith.

In the Written Description:

On page 1, please substitute the first paragraph (lines 1-2) with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/177,243, filed October 22, 1998, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application Serial No. 60/063,219, filed October 23, 1997, the entire disclosures of both applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Preliminary Amendment U.S.S.N.: Not yet assigned.

Express Mail Mailing Label No.: EL653444210US

pg. 2

REMARKS

Applicant hereby amends the specification to provide information about related application and to assert right of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. The related application is copending through the filing of a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136 (a), a copy of which is enclosed. No new matter is added. A marked-up copy of the amended paragraph of the specification is attached.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 248-7808.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 30, 2001

Reg. No.: (Limited Recognition)

Tel. No.: (617) 248-7808

Fax No.: (617) 248-7100

Duan Wu

Attorney for Applicant

Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP High Street Tower-125 High Street

Boston, MA 02110

THT\2457\12.2102704_1

Preliminary Amendment U.S.S.N.: Not yet assigned.

Express Mail Mailing Label No.: EL653444210US

pg. 3

Marked-up Copy of Amended Paragraphs

This application <u>is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/177,243</u>, filed October 22, 1998, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional application Serial No. 60/063,219, filed October 23, 1997, the entire disclosures of both applications are incorporated herein by reference.